

FACSIAR Evidence to Action Seminar

Exploring pathways to homelessness: Specialist Homelessness Services clients' use of other FACS services

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Outline

- Background
- Overview of methodology
- Key findings:
 - Who accessed Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)?
 - What FACS services were used by SHS clients?
 - Provision of housing services and re-accessing SHS
 - Exiting OOHC and housing services and contact with SHS
- How can we use these findings in policy and practice?

Having a safe and secure home is out of reach for many in NSW



On Census night in 2016, over 37,000 people were homeless in NSW, an increase of 37% since the 2011 census and higher than the national increase of 14% (ABS 2018).

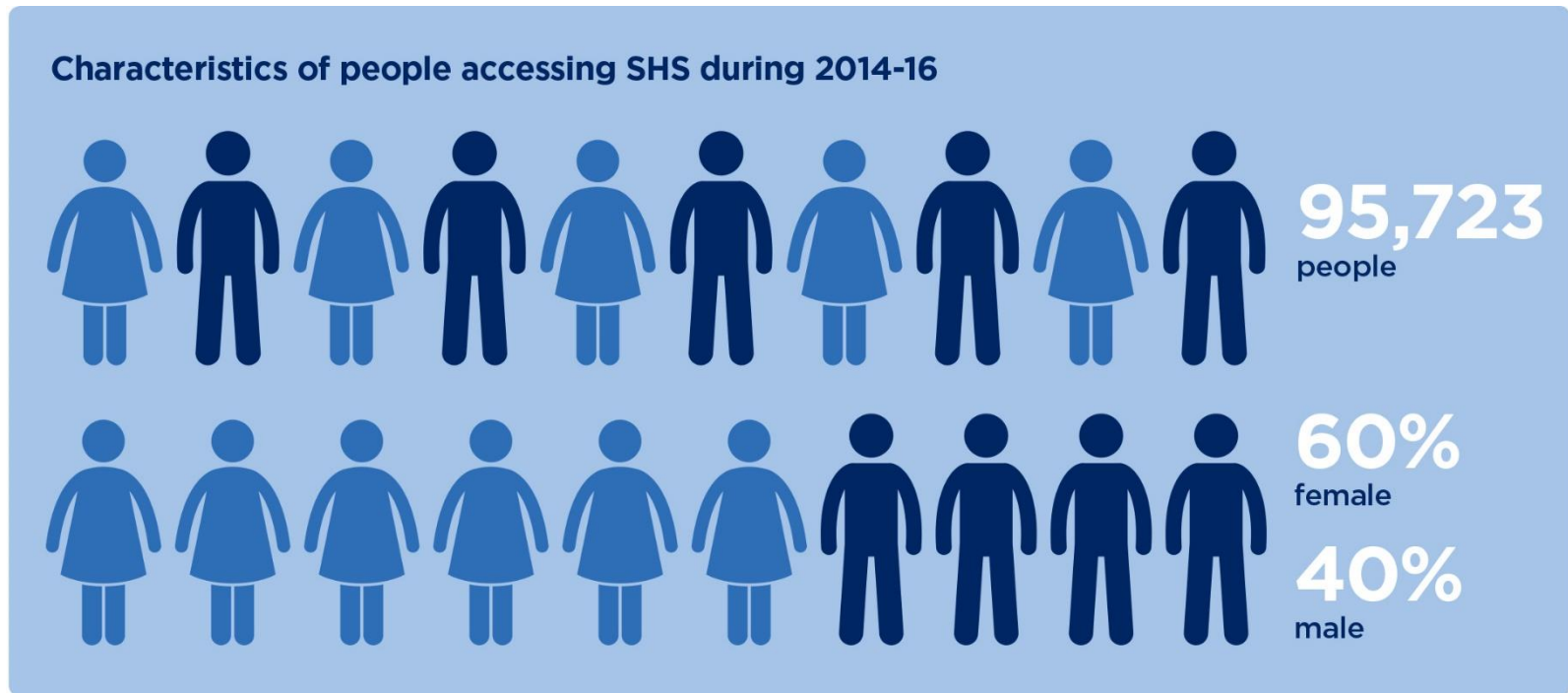
The number of people accessing Specialist Homelessness Services in NSW has steadily increased – from 48,262 people assisted in 2014–15 to 71,628 people assisted in 2017–18 (AIHW 2018).



Methodology

- FACSIAR completed an analysis of the people who accessed SHS during 2014–15 and 2015–16.
- The analysis examined the characteristics of this cohort including Aboriginality, age, gender, reason for seeking assistance, mental health, and their use of FACS services.
- Data was sourced from FACS administrative data sets for:
 1. Specialist Homelessness Services
 2. Social housing
 3. Child protection

Nearly 60% of people accessing SHS were female



The number of females accessing SHS was significantly higher than males in the 18-24, 25-34 and 35-44 age groups

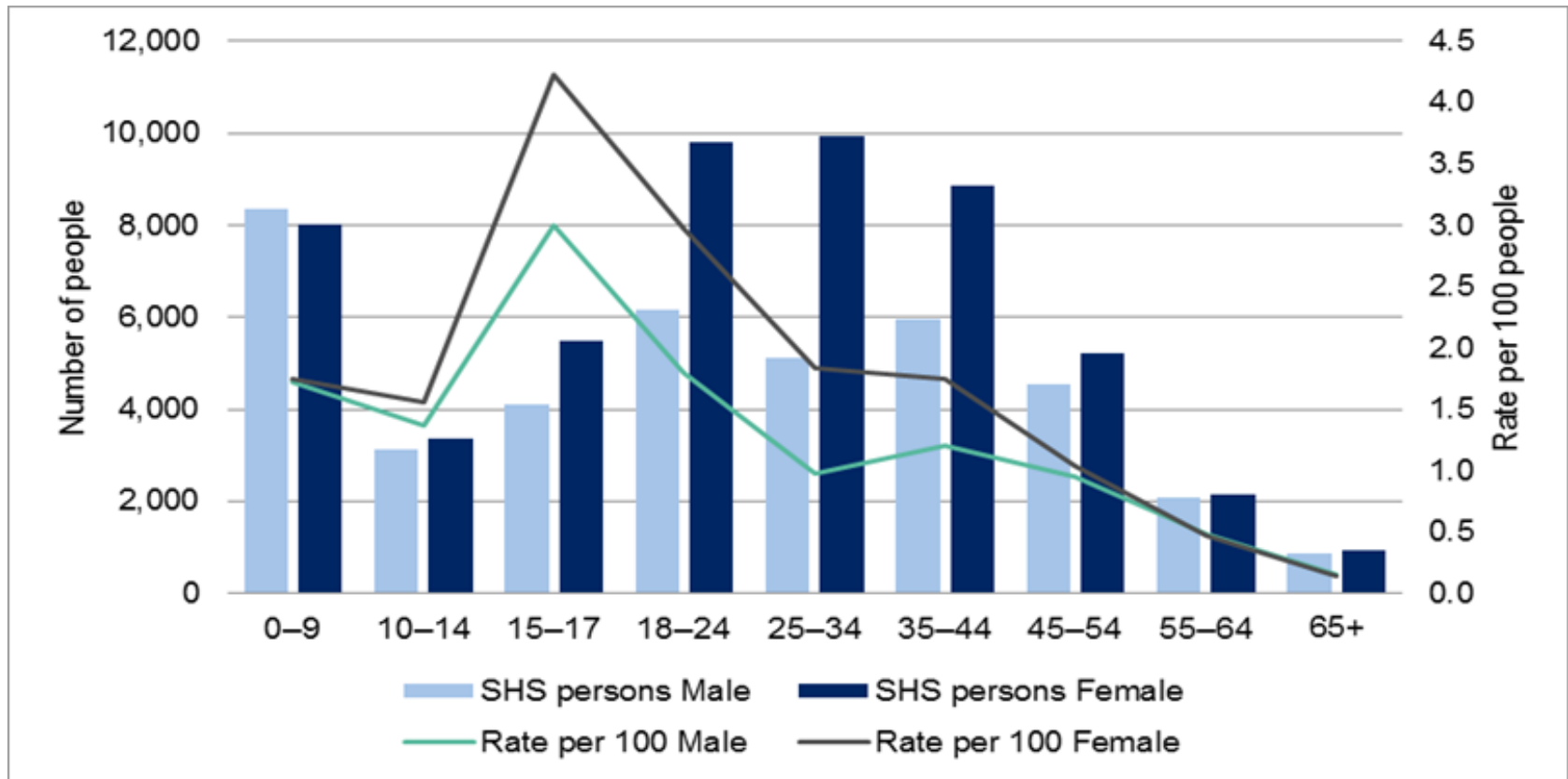


Figure 1: Number and rate per 100 people accessing SHS by age and gender, 2014– 15 to 2015–16

Who else accessed SHS?



Aboriginal people were over-represented in SHS accounting for 26% of people who accessed SHS



Almost 9 in 10 people accessing SHS (aged 15 years and over) were either unemployed or not in the labour force



Around 40% of people accessing SHS had a diagnosed mental health issue

What FACS services were used by SHS clients?

- 65% of people who accessed SHS in 2014–16 also used other FACS services.
- 58% of all SHS clients accessed FACS housing services.
- 34% had contact with child protection/OOHC services.
- Overall, Aboriginal people who accessed SHS were more likely to have contact with FACS services than non-Aboriginal people.

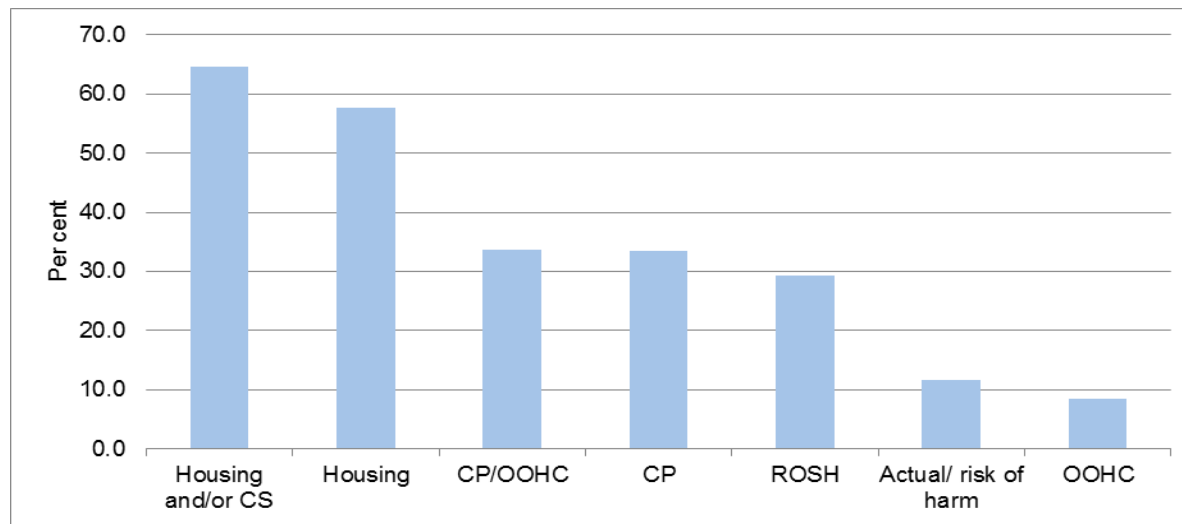


Figure 2: Proportion of people accessing SHS during 2014–15 to 2015–16 who had accessed housing and/or child protection/OOHC services at some time

Provision of housing services and re-accessing SHS

- More than a quarter of people who accessed SHS during 2014–16 had re-accessed a service at least once by the end of June 2016, the majority within a short period of time.
- People who received social housing assistance after SHS had the lowest likelihood of re-accessing SHS (9%).
- People who only received temporary accommodation assistance had a higher chance of re-accessing SHS (25%) than people who received other housing services.
- The likelihood of re-accessing SHS was higher for Aboriginal people, people with a diagnosed mental health issue and people aged 21-40 and 41-60 years.



Young people exiting out-of-home care and SHS

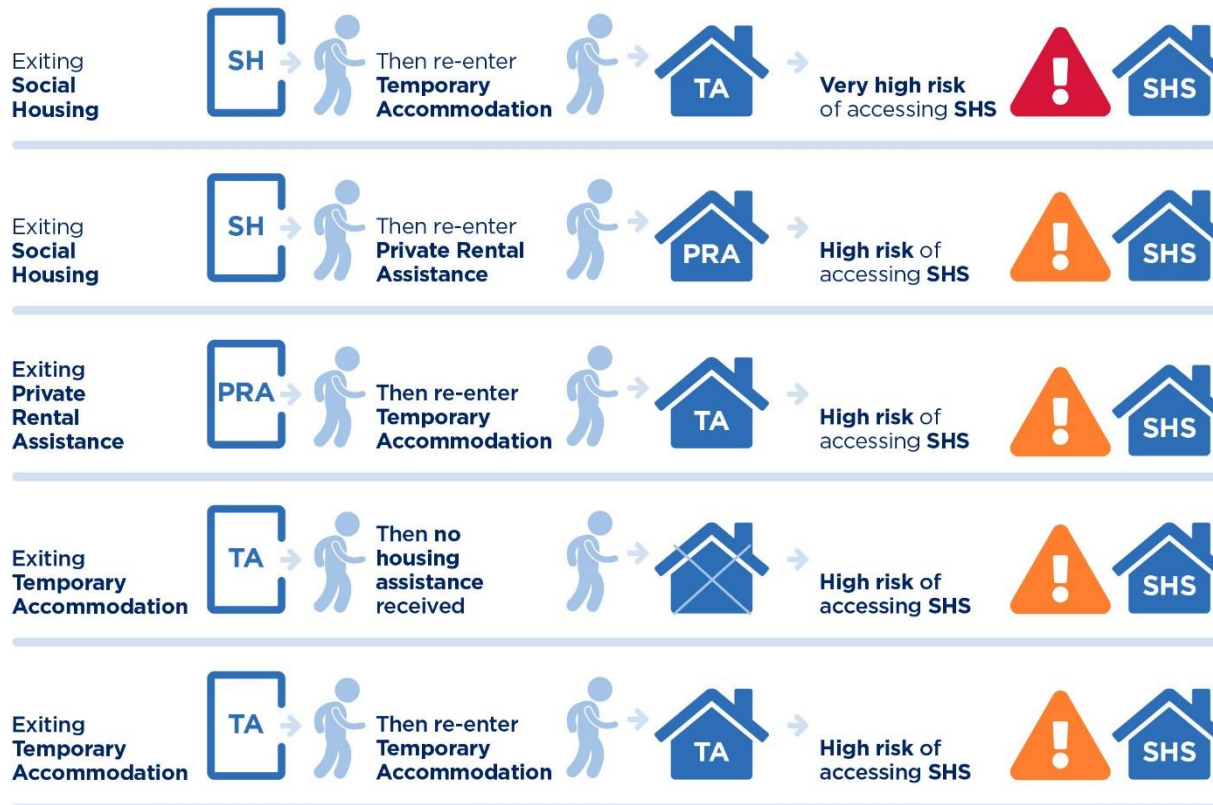
- Young people aged 15 years or more who exited OOHC during 2014–15 and 2015–16 were nearly twice as likely to access SHS after exiting OOHC and four times as likely to access SHS before exiting OOHC than young people who had a child concern report during the same period but had never been in OOHC.
- Young people exiting OOHC at aged 17 years were less likely to access SHS than those aged 15 or 16 years at exit from OOHC.



Contact with SHS following exit from housing services

Exiting a housing service and re-accessing a lower intensity housing service increases the likelihood of accessing SHS.

Housing Pathways with High Level of Risk accessing SHS



How can we use these findings in policy and practice?

- This analysis will help FACS and our NGO partners to better understand the clients most at risk of entering and re-entering SHS and at what point they need intervention.
- This analysis may also help to inform decisions regarding particular types of housing models.



Want to know more?

- FACSIAR Publications:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/analysis>

- The FACSIAR Brief of this analysis will be available soon:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/resources/research/analysis>

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